



Community-centred primary health care

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OCSA

Ontario Community Support Association

United in our commitment to care



Ontario Federation of Community Mental Health and Addiction Programs

Sharing Resources, Exploring Common Issues

To the Local Health Integration Network CEOs and Board Chairs

March 9, 2009

Community Health & Social Services Infrastructure Fund Needed to Bring Services Closer to Ontarians

We three associations, the Association of Ontario Health Centres (AOHC), the Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) and the Ontario Federation of Community Mental Health and Addiction Programs (OFCMHAP) recently corresponded with you about the need to establish a **Community Health & Social Services Infrastructure Fund (CHSSIF)**. The **CHSSIF** is a response to the economic challenges facing Ontario – while, at the same time, constituting a creative answer to the LHINs' integration agenda. This critical initiative presents an unprecedented and historic opportunity to bolster Ontario's future community health services infrastructure just when there is growing demand, while at the same time creating jobs for workers in small and mid-sized construction and related companies, stimulating the economy in rural and urban communities throughout Ontario.

We have been encouraged by the positive response from several LHINs to this idea. Attached to this letter is a proposal for the Community Health & Social Services Infrastructure Fund which provides details of the fund and examples of projects that would benefit from this infrastructure funding.

The upcoming **Ontario Budget 2009** offers a timely opportunity to launch such a **Community Health & Social Services Infrastructure Fund** and get Ontarians back to work now. Its legacy will be the foundation for strong, collaborative multi-sectoral initiatives that for years to come will serve the needs of communities across the province.

We ask for your support for this initiative. We ask that you talk about this initiative with your LHIN colleagues and that you also discuss the fund with Minister Caplan and his staff. If you have the opportunity, please talk with Premier McGuinty and Minister Duncan and their staff about this important initiative. This fund will get Ontarians back to work now. Its legacy will be the foundation for strong, collaborative multi-sectoral initiatives and integration projects that for years to come will serve the needs of communities across the province.

Sincerely,

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